
MONITORING REPORT · CAM ANTISEMITISM RESEARCH CENTER (ARC)

‘False Flag’ Claims Within an Hour: Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories Flourish After FlyDubai Terror Attack

Antisemitism Research Center (ARC) September 30, 2026

That was all it took for a near catastrophe involving a commercial airliner to become an accusation against Israel and Jews.

On the morning of September 30, 2026, passengers aboard a FlyDubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv narrowly survived an attempt by one of the plane's pilots to hijack and crash the aircraft.

Passengers and crew courageously intervened, subduing the terrorist and landing the plane safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Just 67 minutes after the incident began, ARC monitoring detected the first post on X declaring it an Israeli "false flag" operation.

Within five hours of that initial claim, the ARC recorded 1,000 hostile posts on X. Over the full 12-hour monitoring period, the ARC identified 2,963 posts spreading conspiracy theories attributing the incident to Israel, the Mossad intelligence agency, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Zionists, or Jews.

Approximately 72% of the 4,136 tracked posts containing the phrase "false flag" promoted these claims. In the final hour, the proportion reached 82%. Within this dataset, blaming Israel or Jews for the attempted hijacking was the overwhelmingly dominant use of the phrase.

The reversal of victim and perpetrator in these conspiracy theories was particularly disturbing. The antisemitic promoters of the claims blame Jews for the very violence that targets them, with their victimhood recast as a deceptive ruse and their survival becoming grounds for suspicion and skepticism.

Instead of sympathizing with those who experienced a traumatic near-miss with death, online audiences are encouraged to imagine a staged ordeal, orchestrated by covert Jewish operators, playing into classical antisemitic tropes of secret Jewish control and manipulation of global affairs.

The danger extends beyond the intentional distortion of reality. The conspiracy theories deny empathy to those whose lives were endangered, deflect blame from the perpetrator, and turn an occasion for solidarity into another source of hostility. The logic is self-reinforcing. Once Jews are established as the hidden authors of events, even violence against them can be presented as evidence of their supposed malfeasance. The victims are forced to defend themselves twice. First, against the physical threat, and then from accusations they fabricated it.

The Attack

Starting at 1:21 AM ET on the morning of September 30, 2026, a FlyDubai Boeing 737 MAX 8 en route from Dubai to Tel Aviv carrying 174 passengers, began squawking emergency distress signals. The aircraft plunged from an altitude of around 34,000 feet to under 17,000 feet in a single minute, before diverting to Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

One pilot stabbed the other and attempted to crash the aircraft. Passengers and crew entered the cockpit and thwarted a disaster. Both pilots were hospitalized.

This was an attempted terrorist attack on a civilian airliner, prevented only by the bravery and heroism of the passengers and crew who fought back. What follows is the story the internet told instead.

Key Figures

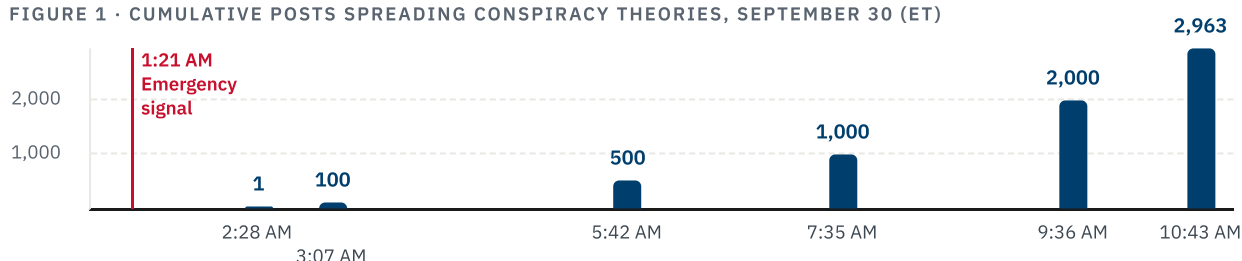
MEASURE	VALUE
Posts spreading conspiracy theories	2,963 of 4,136 collected (72%)
Time from start of incident to first “false flag” claim	67 minutes
Time from first “false flag” claim to 1,000 posts spreading conspiracy theories	~5 hours
Peak hourly volume (9:00 AM to 10:00 AM ET)	623 posts , roughly 10 per minute

The Velocity of the Conspiracy

At 2:28 AM ET, 67 minutes after the first emergency distress signal was transmitted, CAM identified the initial X post sharing a conspiracy theory about the attempted attack: “An Israeli commercial aircraft has been reported to being hijacked. False flag or Hannibal directive maybe. Who knows, but I bet it’s deliberate.” Three minutes later came a second: “Bibi staging any other false flag. Keep an eye of fly Dubai.” No investigation had begun. No facts had emerged. The verdict, however, was already in.

From the first post, the accusations compounded with remarkable speed: 100 conspiracy posts by 3:07 AM ET, 500 by 5:42 AM ET, 1,000 by 7:35 AM ET, and 2,000 by 9:36 AM ET. The volume was still climbing when collection ended at 10:43 AM ET.

FIGURE 1 · CUMULATIVE POSTS SPREADING CONSPIRACY THEORIES, SEPTEMBER 30 (ET)



Time at which the count of posts spreading conspiracy theories reached each threshold. All times ET. Collection ended at 10:43 AM ET with volume still rising.

The conspiracy theories about the attack proliferated rapidly until they conquered the online discourse. In the 2:00 AM ET hour, 60% of all “false flag” posts on the platform spread conspiracy theories against Israel and Jews. In the final two hours of collection, from 9:00 to 10:43 AM ET, that share had risen to 81% and 82%.

CAM ASSESSMENT

The speed, uniformity, and reach of this campaign bear the hallmarks of coordination rather than spontaneous reaction. Identical messages were posted dozens of times by different outlets, and Iranian and Russian state media amplified the same narratives within hours. The pattern mirrors the influence operations that hostile states, Russia foremost among them, use to destabilize Western societies: sowing social division, exploiting breaking news events, and portraying Israel and Jews as the “hidden hand” behind them. Blaming Israel is not a by-product of these campaigns, it is the purpose of them.

Examples



Exhibit 1 · @RabbiJeffx

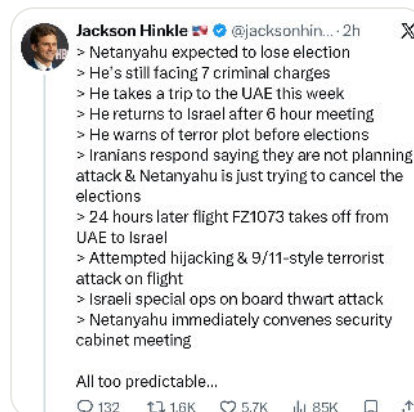


Exhibit 2 · @jacksonhinkle



Exhibit 3 · @seychelleslife



Exhibit 4 · @todd20006



Exhibit 5 · @Mr_Robot0076



Exhibit 6 · @zeephyyr



Exhibit 7 · @JohnSake18



Exhibit 8 · @DmMcbride03